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Partnerships for sustainable development

Report of the Secretary-General**

Summary

Partnerships for sustainable development are voluntary, multi-stakeholder initiatives that are specifically linked to the implementation of commitments outlined in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Agenda 21 and/or the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21. The present report provides a general summary of information on the 319 partnerships for sustainable development registered with the secretariat of the Commission on Sustainable Development and a more detailed summary of partnerships focusing on energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change.

The report points out that while these initiatives vary significantly in terms of sustainable development issues addressed, number of partners and scope, there are certain factors that are common to all registered partnerships. Partnerships for sustainable development are collaborative initiatives focused on finding innovative solutions to sustainable development challenges. By pooling their knowledge, skills and resources, these partnerships are working to develop knowledge networks to contribute to an environment of informed decision-making. Most partnerships reported progress in implementation within the broad categories of partnership building/coordination, capacity-building activities, information sharing and pilot projects.

The report serves as a basis for the Commission on Sustainable Development's discussion, during its review session, on the contribution of partnerships to the implementation of the intergovernmentally agreed sustainable development goals and commitments.

* E/CN.17/2006/1.

** This report was submitted late to allow the Commission on Sustainable Development secretariat to receive as many updates as possible from registered partnerships for sustainable development.

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I. Introduction

1. Voluntary, multi-stakeholder partnerships working towards sustainable development goals have proved to be an important complementary outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. As of February 2006, a total of 319 such partnerships had been registered with the Commission on Sustainable Development secretariat.

2. Partnerships for sustainable development have a special character; they are specifically linked to the implementation of globally agreed commitments in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation), Agenda 21 and/or the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21. However, as stressed at the World Summit, these partnerships are not a substitute for government responsibilities and commitments; they are intended to strengthen implementation by involving those relevant stakeholders that can make a contribution to sustainable development.

3. The Commission was designated by the World Summit as the focal point for discussion on partnerships that promote sustainable development. At its eleventh session in 2003, the Commission stressed that partnerships in the context of the World Summit process and its follow-up should be developed and implemented in accordance with a set of agreed criteria and guidelines (see E/CN.17/2003/6), taking note of the preliminary work undertaken on partnerships during the preparatory process for the Summit, including the Bali Guiding Principles[1] and General Assembly resolution 56/76. Subsequently, the General Assembly, in its resolutions 58/129 and 60/215, and the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2003/61, have recognized the important contribution of partnerships for sustainable development to the implementation of internationally agreed sustainable development commitments and goals, and the continuing efforts of the secretariat of the Commission on Sustainable Development to promote these partnerships.

4. The Commission agreed that information on partnerships for sustainable development should be made publicly available. As part of that information-sharing process, the Commission secretariat was requested to develop a partnerships database, which would be accessible to all interested parties.

5. In February 2004, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs launched the Commission on Sustainable Development Partnerships for Sustainable Development Database (see http://esa.un.org/dsd/partnerships/public/). This interactive Web-accessible database contains information on registered partnerships based on self-reports from partnership focal points. These voluntary reports help keep the partnerships database up to date, and form the basis for summary reports prepared by the Commission secretariat.

6. The CSD partnerships website (www.un.org/esa/sustdev/partnerships/) and database have been redesigned to improve navigation and enable easier access to the various new information resources and tools being made available. New features that have been added to the partnerships website include: a partnerships events calendar; searchable listings of Web links; publications and articles related to partnerships; and an online discussion forum (e-forum) where members of registered partnerships can exchange experiences and collaborate.

7. The Commission, during its biennial review sessions, will discuss the contribution of partnerships to the implementation of the intergovernmentally

agreed sustainable development goals and objectives, with a view to sharing lessons learned and best practices and identifying and addressing problems, gaps and constraints. The present report, which contains synthesized information on partnerships, as requested by the Commission at its eleventh session, is submitted for consideration by the Commission at its fourteenth session.

II. Partnership trends

8. Partnerships for sustainable development have certain key characteristics (identified in the Commission eleventh session criteria and guidelines on partnerships, the Bali Guiding Principles and General Assembly resolution 56/76), including the need for sectoral and geographical balance, multi-stakeholder involvement, the relationship to the World Summit, and the need for a predictable and sustained resource base. The following sections explore some of these aspects and identify emerging trends within partnerships currently registered with the Commission.

A. Overall numbers

9. A total of 319 partnerships had been registered with the Commission secretariat as of 24 February 2006.

10. Two thirds of those partnerships (209) were registered around the time of the World Summit, and 110 partnerships have registered since the Summit. In addition to those, 21 activities to initiate partnerships (which have the potential to lead to formation of new partnership initiatives) are also currently registered with the Commission secretariat (see www.un.org/esa/sustdev/partnerships/activities_initiate.htm).

11. Since the issuance of the background paper on partnerships for sustainable development[2] in February 2005, 19 new partnerships have registered with the Commission secretariat and 61 partnerships have reported updates on their activities.

B. Sectoral coverage

12. The majority of partnerships working towards sustainable development tend to have a multisectoral approach to implementation. Figure I shows the distribution of the different thematic focal areas of partnerships, broken down by primary and secondary themes. To provide a contextual reference for partnership initiatives and the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development, thematic clusters from the Commission's multi-year programme of work were used to group the sustainable development issues.

13. The thematic areas being addressed by registered partnerships cover a wide spectrum. Within this spectrum, over one half (53 per cent) of all registered partnerships are working in the broad area of protection and management of natural resources. Over one fifth of all registered partnerships are working in the areas of agriculture (27 per cent), biodiversity (25 per cent), climate change (25 per cent),

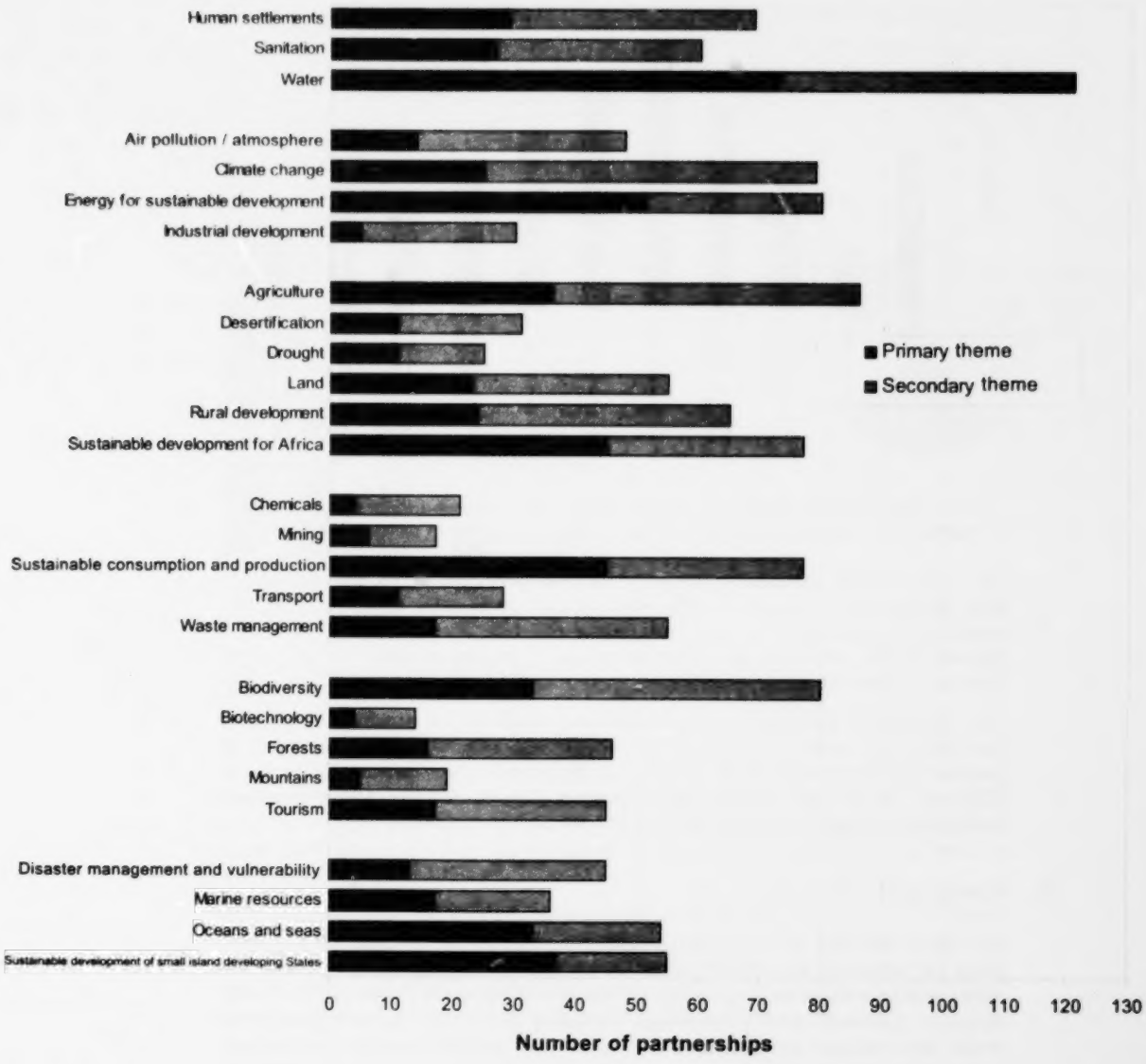
energy (25 per cent), human settlements (22 per cent), rural development (21 per cent) and water (38 per cent).

14. On the other hand, some resource areas continue to have proportionately fewer registered partnerships; less than one tenth of registered partnerships cover biotechnology (4 per cent), chemicals (7 per cent), drought (8 per cent), mining (5 per cent), mountains (6 per cent) and transport (9 per cent). These gaps in coverage are related specifically to registered partnerships, and are not necessarily reflective of other partnerships taking place outside the sphere of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

Figure I

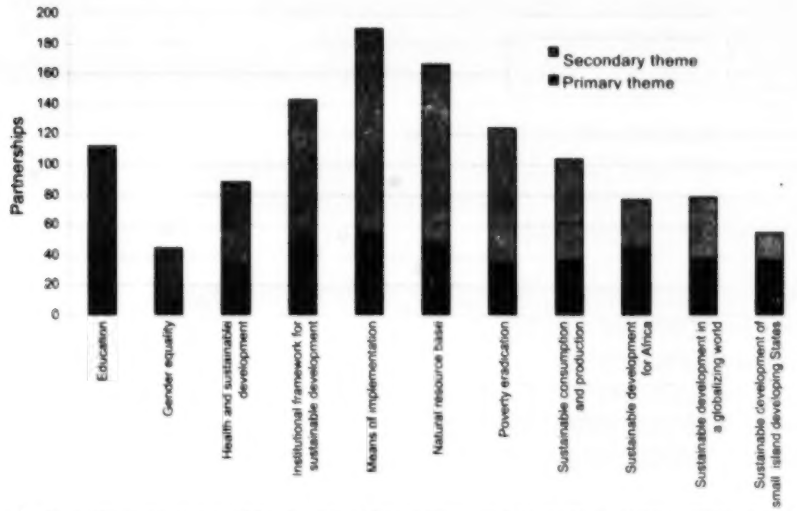
Thematic focus of Commission on Sustainable Development-registered partnerships[a]

(Clustered according to the multi-year programme of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development)



[a] Given that most partnerships have multiple primary and secondary themes, aggregating the number of partnerships per theme would exceed the total number of registered partnerships.

Figure II
Thematic focus of partnerships (cross-cutting issues)[a]
(Cross-cutting issues from the multi-year programme of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development)



[a] Given that most partnerships have multiple primary and secondary themes, aggregating the number of partnerships per theme would exceed the total number of registered partnerships.

15. Cross-cutting sustainable development issue areas are taken into account by most partnerships. Capacity-building and technology transfer continue to be key elements in implementation strategies, while effecting change in the institutional framework for sustainable development remains a priority area for 45 per cent of registered partnerships.

16. Sustainable development in a globalizing world and sustainable development for Africa are areas of concern for nearly one fourth (24 per cent) of all partnerships. One third of all registered partnerships are working in areas of education (36 per cent), health (32 per cent), poverty eradication (39 per cent) and sustainable consumption and production (33 per cent).

C. Geographic coverage

17. More than half of the registered partnerships are global in scope (51 per cent), while the remainder are either regional (20 per cent) or subregional (24 per cent). A very small percentage of partnerships are national (5 per cent) and local (1 per cent) in scope. However, most partnerships, including those with global and regional scope, have national and local level activities. Many employ a bottom-up approach, using pilot projects with local community-level participation to test strategies, which are then replicable at national, subregional and regional levels.

18. When looking at partnerships with regional, subregional and national scope, the regional breakdown is 38 per cent working in Asia and the Pacific region, 26 per

cent in Africa, 17 per cent in Latin America and the Caribbean, 15 per cent in Europe and North America, and 4 per cent in West Asia.

Figure III
Geographic scope of partnerships

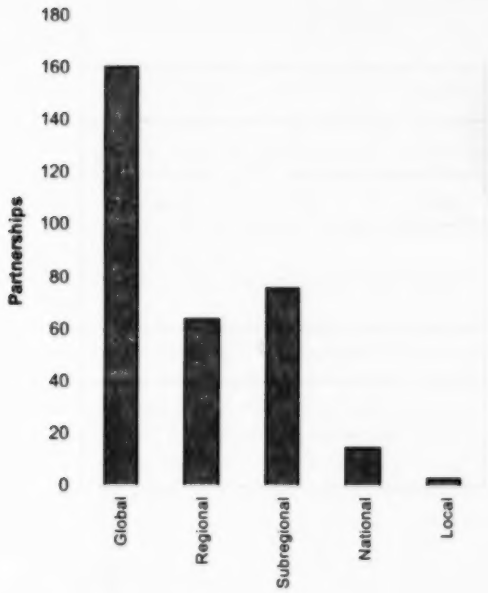
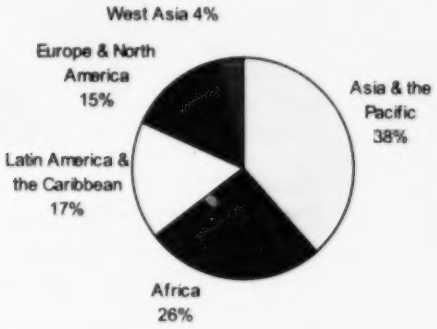


Figure IV
Regional coverage of partnerships
(This only reflects information from regional, subregional, national and local partnerships.)



D. Time frame

19. A majority of the partnerships registered with the Commission secretariat were launched at or around the time of the World Summit. Half the registered partnerships were initiated in 2002, the year of the Summit. Less than one third (27 per cent) of the partnerships initiated activities in 2003 and one tenth (10 per cent) began activities in 2004. A small number of partnerships began their activities in 2005 (10) and 2006 (1).

20. Less than one tenth (9 per cent) of registered partnerships were in existence prior to 2002. In the case of the ongoing partnerships, they had to demonstrate significant added value in the context of the World Summit in order to be registered. That could have been in the form of additional partners, replication of an initiative, extension of geographic scope or an increase in financial resources.

Figure V
Year of partnership initiation

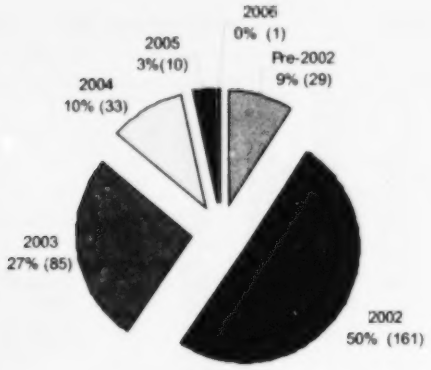
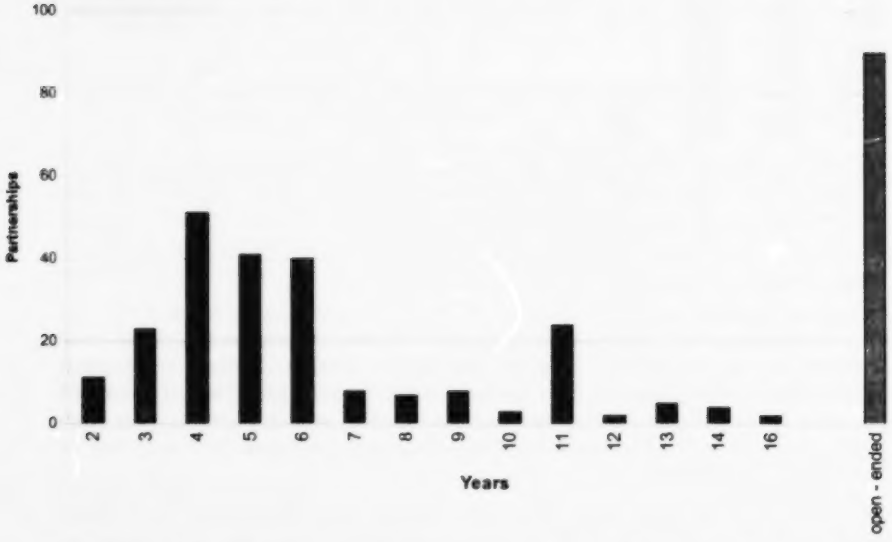


Figure VI
Duration of partnerships



21. Depending on the nature of goals, objectives and targets, the duration of partnerships can vary widely, ranging from two years to an undefined close date (open-ended). More than one quarter (28 per cent) of the registered partnerships are open-ended. Over half (56 per cent) of partnerships list an end date of 10 years or less.

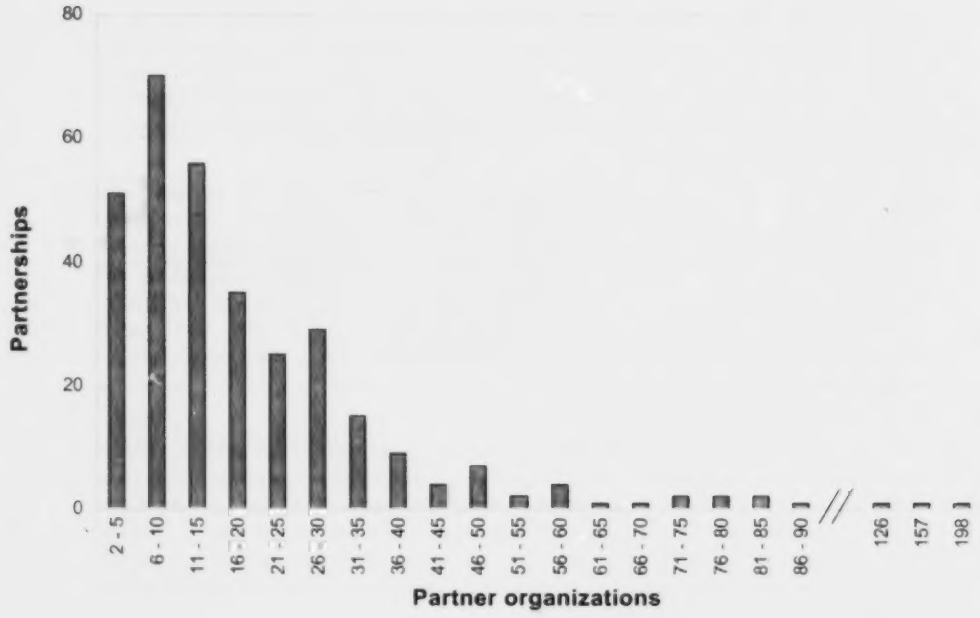
E. Partners involved

22. By definition, registered partnerships are voluntary multi-stakeholder initiatives undertaken by any combination of Governments, intergovernmental organizations, major groups[3] and other organizations. A significant majority of registered partnerships have Government (84 per cent) and major groups (84 per cent) involvement. Nearly two thirds of partnerships have United Nations system (63 per cent) and other intergovernmental organization (61 per cent) involvement. In addition, two fifths (43 per cent) of partnerships have other organizational partners, including academia and media.

23. Major groups' involvement in partnerships, when disaggregated by individual major group, shows that 67 per cent of partnerships have non-governmental organization (NGO) partners; 43 per cent have business and industry partners; 38 per cent have partners from the scientific and technological community, and 21 per cent have partners from local authorities. A much smaller percentage of registered partnerships have partners from women's groups (4 per cent), youth groups (4 per cent), workers and trade unions (4 per cent), indigenous people's organizations
(3 per cent) and farmers (3 per cent).

24. In terms of lead partner organizations, there are 463 lead partner organizations listed for the 319 registered partnerships. Therefore, clearly some partnerships have more than one lead partner organization. Of the lead partners, 31 per cent are major groups organizations; 25 per cent are Government partners; 19 per cent are United Nations system organizations; and 17 per cent are other intergovernmental organizations. Organizations such as academic institutions, foundations and media account for 8 per cent of all lead partners.

Figure VII
Partners per partnership



25. The number of partner organizations per partnership tends to vary. In registered partnerships, the number of confirmed partners ranged from as few as two to as many as 198 organizational partners. However, a significant majority of partnerships (66 per cent) have 20 partners or less.

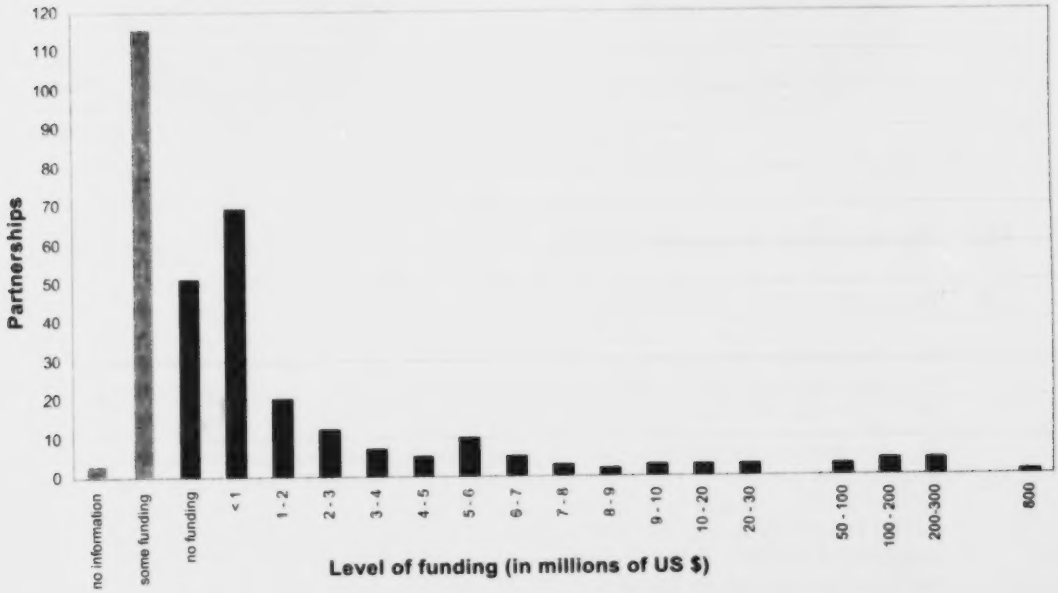
26. In general, partner organizations involved in the development of the partnership from their early stages ensure that the approach taken is genuinely participatory and reflective of the needs of the various stakeholders. Since most partnerships welcome additional partners, the number of organizations actively participating within them is bound to increase and the initiatives will evolve accordingly.

F. Resources

27. The resource base of a partnership, whether supported by financial resources and/or non-financial contributions, is one of the key determinants affecting a partnership's ability to carry out its implementation. Nearly all (99 per cent) registered partnerships have provided some information on their available resources. Based on the information reported, 84 per cent of registered partnerships (268) have secured financial resources, 4 per cent (12) are supported by non-financial (in-kind) contributions and 11 per cent (36) are pending funding.

28. Of the 268 registered partnerships that have succeeded in securing funding, 256 have provided information on the source of funding. It should be noted that many partnerships with secured funding have multiple donors. Of the 256 partnerships that have identified their donor type, 75 per cent reported having funding from Governments, 35 per cent are receiving funding from intergovernmental organizations (including United Nations system organizations) and 20 per cent are receiving funding from private sector donors. One fifth of partnerships (20 per cent) have reported that they are receiving support from United Nations system organizations.

Figure VIII
Reported funding levels in partnerships



29. In addition to that, 16 per cent of partnerships have reported receiving grants from NGOs, while 6 per cent are receiving funding from other sources, such as foundations. Further breakdown of the funding by source was not possible since 116 of the 268 partnerships with secured funding did not disclose their funding figures (see figure VIII).

30. Two thirds of all registered partnerships (67 per cent) are currently seeking additional funding for their initiatives. Of those, 25 per cent provided specific figures for the funding they are currently seeking. These additional amounts needed range from tens of thousands to tens of millions of United States dollars.

31. Non-financial contributions (such as in-kind contributions or staff time) often enable a partnership to function while it is in the process of securing funding from outside sources. Over two fifths (43 per cent) of registered partnerships have reported that they currently have non-financial resources in the form of office space, staff and computers.

Figure IX
Funding status of partnerships

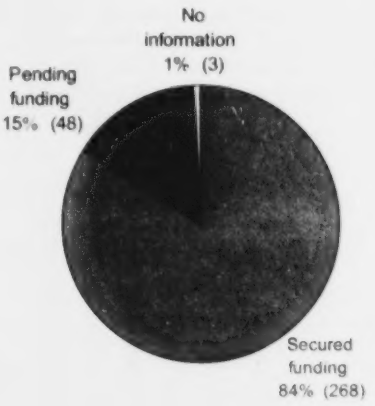
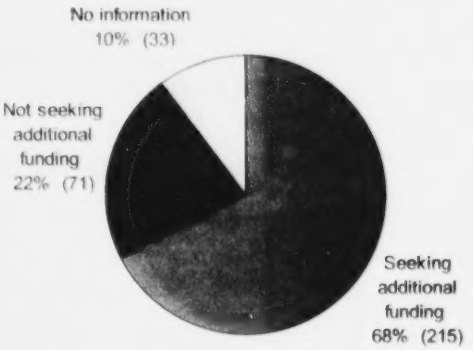


Figure X
Partnerships seeking additional funding



III. Partnership implementation

A. Implementation mechanisms

32. Partnerships for sustainable development address global economic, social and environmental concerns by strengthening cooperation in areas of institutional and human capacity-building, research and information-sharing and technology transfer.

33. Partnerships are working to foster capacity at all levels, from local to regional to global: 80 per cent of registered partnerships are working to educate and build awareness of sustainable development issues; 68 per cent are engaged in activities related to building human resource capacity by providing training; 46 per cent are engaged in some form of direct technology transfer; and 45 per cent have activities that focus on building and strengthening institutional capacity.

34. Partnerships actively engaged in advocacy, education and building awareness are committed to improving communication and knowledge exchange among their partners and stakeholders. These initiatives are utilizing web-based communication and information-dissemination platforms to collaborate on data collection, select indicator methodologies, reporting on best practices and proposing models and tools for managing technologies and natural resources. The use of online tools enables communities geographically spread across the globe to collaborate and maintain information on common web spaces, take advantage of collective global expertise, identify cooperative research agendas and apply the relevant information to their local needs.

35. Most partnerships conduct national level workshops and training sessions, which then enables country-specific needs assessments to take place. Based on those assessments, partners are able to ascertain the political, technical, structural, regulatory and financing barriers that need to be overcome in order to address the specific sustainable development issue.

36. Technology transfer by registered partnerships appears to be mostly in the form of targeted technical assistance; helping developing country partners procure technology; and facilitating transfer of technology and know-how from private sector partners in developed countries to their counterparts in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

37. Many partnerships serve a convening and facilitating role by bringing together and engaging key leaders and stakeholders in the national legislation and international processes. Some partnerships are building institutional capacity by helping to foster new partnerships and providing information on project and funding opportunities to their partners.

B. Progress since initiation

38. In general, the progress reported falls within the broad categories of partnership-building; capacity-building activities; information-sharing; and pilot projects implementing partnership activities on the local level.

39. Partnership progress included reports of successful fundraising; the confirmation of additional partners; the development of organizational principles to define the terms of collaboration and cooperation among partners; and the development of an internal governance and coordination mechanism through the formation of steering committees and partnership secretariats. Partnerships reported on internal meetings of partners, mostly at the regional and local levels. The identification of regional and national focal points as part of partnerships' coordination structures was also reported. In addition to coordination activities established within partnerships, many partnerships have formed formal collaborative arrangements with other partnerships active in similar complementary focal areas.

40. Capacity-building activities reported included the organization of conferences, workshops, symposia, training sessions and the formation of expert networks.

41. Information-sharing activities most frequently mentioned included the establishment of partnership websites and newsletters, and the publication of case studies, directories, educational and training materials, policy papers and toolkits. The creation of web portals/clearinghouse mechanisms providing access to online tools, databases and software is another trend in partnership information-dissemination activities.

42. While most partnerships continue to work to create and maintain an effective organizational structure and focus on partnership and stakeholder relationship building, those efforts appear to be taking place in parallel to on-the-ground implementation activities. Many partnerships have reported on the successes of ongoing pilot projects and research studies at the regional and country levels.

IV. Energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change partnerships

43. In keeping with the focus of the current review session of the Commission on the thematic cluster of energy for sustainable development, industrial development,

air pollution/atmosphere and climate change, the following section delves into greater detail on partnerships whose primary focus is this thematic cluster.

44. Of the 319 registered partnerships, 70 initiatives have a primary focus on energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change, with some listing more than one primary area. Energy for sustainable development is listed as a primary focus by 51 partnerships; 35 listed climate change; 14 listed air pollution/atmosphere; and 5 listed industrial development as their focal area. When looking at the sectoral coverage totals (both primary and secondary focus) for the partnerships in this thematic cluster, of the 70 initiatives, 76 per cent (53) have either a primary or a secondary focus on energy for sustainable development; 61 per cent (43) on climate change; 41 per cent (29) on air pollution/atmosphere; and 19 per cent (13) on industrial development.

A. Trends

45. Given the degree of overlap among partnerships within this subset (noted above), the following general statistics are presented on an aggregated basis for all 70 registered partnerships active in the thematic cluster.

46. In terms of geographic coverage, 59 per cent of energy, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change partnerships are global, 16 per cent are regional, 19 per cent are subregional and 7 per cent are national.

47. In terms of time frame, 11 per cent of energy, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change partnerships were initiated prior to 2002; 51 per cent in 2002; 21 per cent in 2003; 9 per cent in 2004; and 7 per cent in 2005. In terms of duration, 37 per cent are open-ended, while the remainder varied between 3 and 13 years.

48. In terms of partner involvement, 87 per cent of energy, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change partnerships have government involvement, 77 per cent have major groups' involvement, 60 per cent have United Nations system involvement, 59 per cent involve other intergovernmental organizations and 47 per cent include other organizations such as academic institutions.

49. The size of partnerships in terms of total number of partners ranged between two and 198, with the majority of partnerships (89 per cent) having less than 40 partners. A total of 101 lead partners are listed for energy, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change partnerships; of those, 36 per cent are Governments, 30 per cent are major groups' organizations, 16 per cent are organizations of the United Nations system, 12 per cent are other intergovernmental organizations and 7 per cent are organizations such as academia and foundations.

50. In terms of resources, 90 per cent of energy, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change partnerships have already secured funding. In terms of future resources, 66 per cent of the partnerships in this thematic cluster are seeking additional funding. About two fifths are currently utilizing non-financial resources. The breakdown of funding sources is as follows: 70 per cent of current funding is from Governments, 30 per cent from intergovernmental organizations, 20 per cent from private sector sources, 10 per cent from foundations, 10 per cent from non-governmental organizations and 6 per cent from other sources.

B. Implementation focus

51. Partnerships working in the areas of energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change take into account a number of cross-cutting sustainable development issues. At least half of the partnerships in this cluster (57 per cent) are working towards protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development, means of implementation (54 per cent) and changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production (50 per cent). Changing the institutional framework for sustainable development and working towards poverty eradication is a priority area for two fifths (41 per cent) of the partnerships in the thematic cluster.

52. One in five of the partnerships working on energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change is also focusing on water, rural development, sustainable development in a globalizing world, education, health and sustainable development, sustainable development for Africa, sustainable development of small island developing States, waste management and agriculture. The broad spectrum of issues listed above is a clear indication of the degree of synergy between energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change and the overarching sustainable development goals of safeguarding environmental protection, reducing poverty and supporting economic growth.

53. The need for greater utilization of clean energy technologies to reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions is a priority area for partnerships in this cluster. The increased utilization of renewable energy is frequently mentioned in that regard. Activities identified to expand the use of renewable energy sources range from the development of small enterprises based on renewable energy systems in rural areas in Africa, renewable energy technologies specifically tailored to the needs of small island developing States and increasing grid-connected and distributed renewable energy applications to developing a sustainable renewable energy market system in the Mediterranean region.

54. Another frequently identified focal area within partnerships is the need for greater energy efficiency to maximize economic efficiencies, improve air quality and mitigate the effects of climate change. Partnerships in the thematic cluster are working on the deployment of energy efficiency technologies and improving energy efficiency in all sectors, especially in the industrial, services and household sectors. Activities identified in this area range from increasing energy efficiency within municipal water supply systems and the application of energy efficiency standards and labels to energy efficiency pilot projects in the Caribbean region.

55. A key focal area is the connection between the provision of rural energy services and the impact of such services on the rural economy, agriculture, industry and the overall health of the population and environment in rural areas. Specific services addressed by partnerships working in this area include the improvement of domestic fuel quality; meeting thermal energy needs through the provision of liquefied petroleum gas; energy for pumping potable water; refrigeration and lighting in health clinics; and capacity-building, technology transfer, training and financing related to rural energy systems.

56. Poverty eradication efforts are a common thread for many partnerships in this cluster. Activities in this area include creating employment and income generation

through the use of locally available renewable energy resources, the provision of affordable energy services and the development of rural energy systems.

C. Implementation mechanisms

57. The partnerships working in the areas of energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change are similar to the larger group of registered partnerships in that most of them include a capacity-building mechanism in their implementation mechanisms. A strong majority (76 per cent) have an educational component aimed at raising awareness in their work plans; two thirds (66 per cent) are engaged in some form of technology transfer; over half (56 per cent) provide training services to build human resources; and two fifths (39 per cent) are working to strengthen institutional capacity.

58. Partnerships active in the thematic cluster are working to create global policy networks that promote dialogue and knowledge-sharing. These initiatives are working to build capacity and share information on issues including energy technologies, more efficient production processes, geographic learning, and adaptation and mitigation of climate change. Specific activities in those areas include developing global databases of air pollutant emissions, greenhouse gas inventories and Clean Development Mechanisms projects. Other tools being developed include climate prediction services software; e-learning systems for the promotion of knowledge related to Clean Development Mechanisms; and guides for planning and managing public sector energy efficiency.

59. Some initiatives are providing targeted technical assistance by deploying advanced manufacturing processes for cleaner production of energy and materials, while others are building capacities for local assembly/manufacture of energy equipment. Specific activities in that area included the creation of renewable-based energy/electricity generation systems, private partnerships to exchange specific elements of technology for solar water heating and adopting new technologies to improve safety and reduce emissions in the mining sector.

60. Partnerships in this thematic cluster provide training services ranging from activities focused on methodological issues and the collection of relevant data for constructing indicators of sustainable energy supply and use to training on motor vehicle emissions measurement techniques.

D. Progress since initiation

61. The progress reported in energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change partnerships follows a similar pattern to that seen in registered partnerships as a whole; activities reported largely consisted of partnership coordination, capacity-building activities, information-sharing and pilot projects.

62. Partnership coordination activities reported included additions of new partner organizations, increases in funding and the launching of partnership websites.

63. Reports of capacity-building ranged from developing technical capacity among universities and the private sector and performing energy audits for water utilities to

training courses for modelling and simulation techniques specifically designed for assessing future energy demand and supply options.

64. Examples of information-sharing included the development of web portals; online libraries of resource materials, case studies and software tools, including a spreadsheet for estimating energy, cost, carbon and pollution savings from energy-efficient government purchasing; and the development of monitoring and evaluation toolkits to guide energy project development and linkages to development outcomes.

65. Examples of ongoing pilot projects ranged from projects to develop a distributed database of criteria regarding pollutant and greenhouse gas emissions from the electricity sector across Canada, Mexico and the United States, to innovative financing pilot projects to provide solar lanterns to agricultural cooperatives in northern India.

V. Partnerships-related activities of the Commission on Sustainable Development secretariat

A. Commission on Sustainable Development partnerships website and database

66. The Commission secretariat website on partnerships for sustainable development is a valuable instrument for sharing information on partnerships-related issues, and provides access to a wide array of tools and applications designed to promote knowledge-sharing and networking.

67. The Commission partnerships website and database have been redesigned to be more user-friendly, improve navigation and enable easier access to the new partnerships-relation information resources being made available. New features that have been added to the Commission partnerships website include a partnerships events database to assist in identifying partnership activities; searchable listings of web links, publications and articles related to partnerships; and an online discussion forum where members of registered partnerships can exchange experiences and best practices.

68. The website also contains detailed information on partnership registration procedures, participation guidelines for Commission Partnerships Fairs and publications on registered partnerships, produced by the Commission secretariat, which are available for download.

69. To date, the most frequently accessed section of the partnerships website is the Partnerships for Sustainable Development Database. The database was launched two years ago, in February 2004. Since its launch, the database has had 67,935 visits[4] and registered 218,427 hits.[5]

70. The information contained in the partnerships database is provided to the secretariat by lead partners of registered partnerships. Requests for updates are sent out annually; however, getting updated information remains a challenge. Lead partners are urged to keep their information up to date, in order for the database to remain current.

71. The secretariat is working to build an online knowledge network on partnerships for sustainable development. By developing online tools that facilitate communication channels and promote information-flow, learning and collaboration between registered partnerships, it is hoped that in time these efforts will cultivate the creation of online communities of practice among registered partnerships.

72. In addition to online networking opportunities, registered initiatives can present information on their initiatives at the annual Commission Partnerships Fairs and other partnerships-related events organized by the secretariat. These information-sharing activities help raise awareness and could lead to expansion in the form of new partners or the replication of successful initiatives.

B. Commission on Sustainable Development fourteenth session Partnerships Fair

73. The Commission Partnerships Fair will take place from 1 to 9 May 2006 at Headquarters. The Partnerships Fair will provide a venue for showcasing progress made by registered partnerships for sustainable development and networking among existing and potential partners. The Fair will give participants an opportunity to create synergies between partnerships, to identify new partners, to learn from each other's experiences and to advertise and promote their efforts to an intergovernmental forum.

74. The Partnerships Fair will have several components, including "Partnerships in practice" interactive discussion sessions, partnership presentations, where registered partnerships will update the Commission on progress made, and information desks for Commission-registered partnerships to display and distribute information related to their partnerships.

VI. Conclusion

75. More than three years after the World Summit on Sustainable Development, partnerships for sustainable development launched at the World Summit have continued to develop and grow. New partnerships continue to be launched and registered with the Commission secretariat. A majority of registered partnerships are operational, and have reported on the progress made in pilot projects and activities. At the same time, these initiatives are evolving by taking on new partners and building alliances with other partnerships working in complementary areas. Partnerships have been recognized as one of the most innovative outcomes of the World Summit and as having an important role to play in delivering World Summit commitments.

76. In accordance with the criteria and guidelines for registering partnerships for sustainable development with the Commission secretariat, these initiatives have clearly stated goals and objectives related to sustainable development which complement those outlined in Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. By collaborating across all levels, pooling skills and resources and developing innovative policy, technical and financing solutions to overcome barriers to sustainable development, these partnerships continue to demonstrate their concrete contribution to and impact on the implementation of internationally agreed sustainable development goals and commitments.

Notes

[1] For full text of the Bali Guiding Principles see www.johannesburgsummit.org/html/documents/prepcom4docs/bali_documents/annex_partnership.pdf.

[2] See DESA/DSD/2005/1.

[3] The nine major groups of civil society identified in Agenda 21 are: women, youth and children, indigenous people, non-governmental organizations, local authorities, workers and trade unions, business and industry, scientific and technological community and farmers.

[4] A website visit is a series of actions that begins when a visitor views the first page from the server and ends when the visitor leaves the site or remains idle beyond the idle-time limit. The default idle-time limit is 30 minutes.

[5] Each website file requested by a visitor registers as a hit. There can be several hits on each page. The volume of hits reflects the amount of server traffic.

Annex

Listing of registered partnerships active in the thematic cluster (70) of the fourteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development

100% Renewable Energy Islands

Primary theme(s): Energy for sustainable development

This global partnership aims to assist island States to meet 100 percent of their energy requirements from renewable energy sources.

Lead partner(s): Forum for Renewable Energy Islands

African Energy Legacy Projects

Primary theme(s): Energy for sustainable development

This regional partnership focuses on the economic and environmental efficiencies possible through regional cooperation.

Lead partner(s): Government of South Africa, Eskom

Alliance for Rural Energy in Africa

Primary theme(s): air pollution/atmosphere, energy for sustainable development

This regional partnership aims to develop models to meet the needs for modern energy services in rural areas of Africa.

Lead partner(s): EDF/ACCESS

Asia CDM Capacity-Building Initiative

Primary theme(s): Air pollution/atmosphere, climate change, industrial development

This regional partnership initiative facilitates clean development mechanism projects, to reduce greenhouse gas emission in developing countries.

Lead partner(s): Government of Japan (Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry)

Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate

Primary theme(s): Energy for sustainable development, climate change

This regional partnership aims to accelerate global deployment of clean energy technologies by focusing on expanding markets for investment and trade in cleaner energy technologies, goods and services.

Lead partner(s): Government of Australia, Government of China, Government of India, Government of Japan, Government of the Republic of Korea, Government of the United States of America

Asian Partnership Programme towards Shared Prosperity

Primary theme(s): air pollution/atmosphere

This regional partnership focuses on environmental conservation and sustainable development in the Asian region.

Lead partner(s): Government of Japan (City of Kitakyushu)

Business alliance for solar water heaters

Primary theme(s): Energy for sustainable development

This global partnership encourages the production, dissemination and use of solar water heaters and solar water heating technology in developing countries.

Lead partner(s): Jacques Giordano Industries

Caribbean Adaptation to Climate Change and Sea Level Rise

Primary theme(s): Climate change

This regional partnership works to enable increased understanding and capacity to respond to climate change, climate variability and sea level rise.

Lead partner(s): CARICOM

Children's Environmental Health Indicators

Primary theme(s): Air pollution/atmosphere, climate change

This global partnership aims to develop and promote the use of global environmental health indicators for children's environmental health.

Lead partner(s): Government of the United States of America (United States Environmental Protection Agency)

Collaborative Labeling and Appliance Standards Program

Primary theme(s): air pollution/atmosphere, energy for sustainable development, climate change, industrial development

This global partnership promotes the cost-effective adoption of efficiency standards and labels in developing countries.

Lead partner(s): Government of the United States of America (United States Agency for International Development, United States Department of Energy, United States Environmental Protection Agency), Collaborative Labeling and Appliance Standards Program secretariat, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations Foundation

Designing Country Profiles on Sustainable Energy Development

Primary theme(s): Energy for sustainable development

This national partnership involves a systematic and comprehensive approach for developing country profiles on sustainable energy development.

Lead partner(s): IAEA

Development Strategies to Promote Rural Energy System

Primary theme(s): Energy for sustainable development

This global partnership assists requesting countries to elaborate national rural energy development strategies.

Lead partner(s): UNIDO

ECOLEX — a global partnership for information on environmental law

Primary theme(s): Air pollution/atmosphere, climate change

This global partnership builds capacity by providing a comprehensive global source of information on environmental law.

Lead partner(s): The World Conservation Union

Encyclopedia of Life Support Systems (EOLSS)

Primary theme(s): Air pollution/atmosphere, climate change

This global partnership is aimed at creating an integrated knowledge base in support of sustainable development efforts.

Lead partner(s): The EOLSS Publishers Ltd. — EOLSS Joint Committee, UNESCO

Energy Literacy Initiatives

Primary theme(s): Energy for sustainable development

This regional partnership aims to promote energy education, improve energy literacy and support energy conservation.

Lead partner(s): Government of Indonesia (Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources)

Energy and Environment Partnership with Central America

Primary theme(s): Air pollution/atmosphere, energy for sustainable development, climate change, industrial development

This subregional partnership aims to promote the use of renewable energy sources and clean technologies in Central America.

Lead partner(s): Government of Finland (Ministry for Foreign Affairs), Sistema de la Integración Centro-Americana

Energy for Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development

Primary theme(s): Energy for sustainable development, climate change, industrial development

This global partnership aims to enable the EU and its developing country partners to work through "Energy Access Partnerships" to increase access to energy services.

Lead partner(s): European Commission

Energy integration in Western Africa

Primary theme(s): Energy for sustainable development

This subregional partnership supports the West African Power Pool to maximize regional resources and increase energy efficiency.

Lead partner(s): Government of France (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Enhanced Application of Climate Predictions in Pacific Island Countries Project

Primary theme(s): Air pollution/atmosphere, climate change

This subregional partnership emphasizes the need for a framework for incorporating climate prediction information into decision-making processes.

Lead partner(s): Government of Australia (Australian Agency for International Development)

Enhancement of regional strategy on climate change through the Asia-Pacific Network on Climate Change

Primary theme(s): Air pollution/atmosphere, climate change

This subregional partnership facilitates policy dialogue, exchange of experiences, data, and information in the Asia-Pacific region.

Lead partner(s): Government of Japan (Ministry of Environment)

Enterprise of Trust-Economic Welfare in Rural Areas through the Use of Renewable Energies

Primary theme(s): Energy for sustainable development

This regional partnership is developing decentralized systems for use of renewable energies in rural areas in Africa.

Lead partner(s): North South Initiative e.V., SUDERETA

Fostering Regional Energy Cooperation in APEC: Energy for Sustainable Development

Primary theme(s): Energy for sustainable development

This regional partnership aims to improve accessibility to energy and the security of energy supplies within the APEC region.

Lead partner(s): Government of Australia (Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources), Government of Mexico (Secretaria de Energia)

Global Gas Flaring Reduction Partnership

Primary theme(s): Air pollution/atmosphere, energy for sustainable development, climate change

This global public-private partnership supports the petroleum industry and national Governments in their efforts to reduce the flaring of gas.

Lead partner(s): World Bank Group

Global Network on Energy for Sustainable Development

Primary theme(s): Energy for sustainable development

This global partnership contributes to the provision of environmentally sound energy services by supporting information exchange, policy support and capacity-building.

Lead partner(s): UNEP

Global Village Energy Partnership

Primary theme(s): Energy for sustainable development

This global partnership brings together diverse stakeholders to increase access to energy services for those unserved and underserved.

Lead partner(s): UNDP (Energy Sector Management Assistance Programme)

Improving the provision of sustainable energy services for small island developing States

Primary theme(s): Energy for sustainable development, climate change

This global partnership aims to increase provision of sustainable energy services for small island developing States over a 10-year period.

Lead partner(s): UNDP

Indicators for Sustainable Energy Development

Primary theme(s): Energy for sustainable development, climate change

This global partnership is developing energy indicators and assisting countries in energy and statistical capacity-building.

Lead partner(s): IAEA

Indonesia — French public and private partnership to develop mini-hydropower in rural/remote areas on a sustainable basis

Primary theme(s): Energy for sustainable development, climate change

This national partnership is developing financial and institutional arrangements to enable private sector investment in renewable sources.

Lead partner(s): Government of Indonesia (Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources), Spie Entertains

Industrial Energy Efficiency Initiative, The

Primary theme(s): Energy for sustainable development, climate change

This global partnership promotes the deployment of energy efficient technologies in developing countries.

Lead partner(s): UNIDO

Integrated approach to management of the demand for electricity and urban and industrial development

Primary theme(s): Energy for sustainable development, industrial development

This subregional partnership facilitates improvement of energy usage and competitiveness of industrial zones.

Lead partner(s): Government of France (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

International Center for Carbon Sequestration and Biomass Energy

Primary theme(s): Energy for sustainable development, climate change

This global partnership provides and shares information on carbon sequestration and biomass energy.

Lead partner(s): Pro-Natura International

International Center for Sustainable Development

Primary theme(s): Air pollution/atmosphere, climate change, industrial development

The global partnership is developing an integrated knowledge management system that takes into account ecosystems behaviour, and the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainability.

Lead partner(s): The City of Knowledge Foundation

International Coral Reef Action Network

Primary theme(s): Energy for sustainable development, climate change

This global partnership aims to halt and reverse the decline in health of the world's coral reefs.

Lead partner(s): International Coral Reef Action Network

Johannesburg Climate Legacy

Primary theme(s): Climate change

This global partnership worked to measure carbon dioxide emissions of the Summit and offset them by investing in carbon-reducing, sustainable projects across South Africa.

Lead partner(s): International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources — World Conservation Union

LPG Challenge

Primary theme(s): Energy for sustainable development

This global partnership aims to meet thermal energy needs of rural and peri-urban populations in developing countries through expanded use of liquefied petroleum gas.

Lead partner(s): World LP Gas Association, UNDP

Mandatory Disclosure of Automotive Emissions

Primary theme(s): Air pollution/atmosphere, energy for sustainable development

This subregional partnership is developing a uniform mandatory disclosure scheme on motor vehicles emissions within ASEAN countries.

Lead partner(s): Government of Indonesia (Ministry of Environment)

Market Facilitation Partnership for Concentrating Solar Power Technologies

Primary theme(s): Energy for sustainable development, climate change

This global partnership aims to contribute to expanding a global market for concentrating solar power.

Lead partner(s): Government of Germany (Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety)

Mechanism for the development of renewable energy and energy efficiency in developing countries

Primary theme(s): Energy for sustainable development, climate change

This global partnership aims to provide access to rural energy services and increase renewable resources in the energy mix of developing countries.

Lead partner(s): Government of France (Agency for International Development)

Mediaterre — Global information system on sustainable development

Primary theme(s): Air pollution/atmosphere, energy for sustainable development, climate change

This global partnership is creating an information and discussion platform for sustainable development.

Lead partner(s): Association Agora 21, Agence intergovernementale de la Francophonie

MeditAlRaneo

Primary theme(s): Air pollution/atmosphere, climate change

This subregional partnership aims to support the preparation of consistent and reliable greenhouse gas inventories in Mediterranean countries.

Lead partner(s): Government of Italy (Ministry for the Environment and Territory, Italian Agency for the Environment and Technical Services)

Mediterranean Renewable Energy Programme

Primary theme(s): Energy for sustainable development, climate change

This subregional partnership aims to provide modern energy services to rural populations and to increase the use of renewable energy technologies.

Lead partner(s): Government of Italy (Ministry for the Environment and Territory)

Methane to Markets

Primary theme(s): Energy for sustainable development, climate change, air pollution/atmosphere

This global partnership aims to reduce global methane emissions, strengthen energy security, improve air quality, improve industrial safety and reduce greenhouse gases

Lead partner(s): Government of the United States of America

Modern biomass technology for rural energy needs

Primary theme(s): Air pollution/atmosphere, energy for sustainable development, climate change

This global partnership is creating a technological and institutional model to meet energy needs in rural areas, using locally available renewable biomass resources.

Lead partner(s): French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development

My Community, Our Earth — Geographic Learning for Sustainable Development

Primary theme(s): Energy for sustainable development, climate change

This global initiative raises awareness on the importance of geography and geographic information system technology in sustainable development.

Lead partner(s): Association of American Geographers

Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development

Primary theme(s): Air pollution/atmosphere, energy for sustainable development, climate change

This global partnership shares information and experiences about sustainable development policymaking at the regional level of governance.

Lead partner(s): Government of Belgium (Ministry of the Flemish community), Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (Welsh Assembly)

Networked Environmental Information System for Global Emissions Inventories

Primary theme(s): Air pollution/atmosphere

This global initiative develops tools to disseminate information on emissions through a database, computer software and a global network of air emissions experts.

Lead partner(s): Government of the United States of America (United States Environmental Protection Agency)

Niger Delta Fund Initiative

Primary theme(s): Energy for sustainable development

This national partnership is working to form and implement the Niger Delta Fund, a transparent legal mechanism to distribute oil royalties.

Lead partner(s): Earth Rights Institute Africa, Center for Geoclassical Economics

Nile Basin Initiative

Primary theme(s): Energy for sustainable development

This subregional partnership aims to achieve sustainable socio-economic development through equitable utilization and benefit from the Nile Basin water resources.

Lead partner(s): Nile Basin Initiative Secretariat

PEPS – Promoting an Energy-efficient Public Sector

Primary theme(s): Energy for sustainable development

This global partnership initiative aims to achieve energy and cost savings by harnessing governments' purchasing power to create or expand domestic markets for energy-efficient products and services.

Lead partner(s): Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

Pacific Island Adaptation Initiative

Primary theme(s): Climate change

This subregional partnership initiative aims to enable the Pacific Islands region to understand and respond to climate change, climate variability and sea level rise.

Lead partner(s): South Pacific Regional Environment Programme

Pacific Islands Energy for Sustainable Development

Primary theme(s): Energy for sustainable development

This subregional partnership aims to implement the Pacific Energy Policy and Plan being developed by Pacific island countries.

Lead partner(s): Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

Partners for Environmental Cooperation in Europe

Primary theme(s): Air pollution/atmosphere, energy for sustainable development, climate change, industrial development

This regional partnership contributes to environmental protection and sustainable development through partnership projects involving public and private sectors and civil society.

Lead partner(s): Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs)

Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles

Primary theme(s): Air pollution/atmosphere, energy for sustainable development

This global partnership is helping develop action plans to complete the elimination of leaded gasoline and start to phase down sulphur in diesel and gasoline fuels.

Lead partner(s): UNEP (Division of Policy Development and Law)

Partnership for Clean Indoor Air

Primary theme(s): Air pollution/atmosphere

This global partnership aims to increase the use of affordable, reliable, clean, efficient and safe home cooking and heating practices.

Lead partner(s): Government of the United States of America (United States Environmental Protection Agency)

Partnership for Water Education and Research (PoWER)

Primary theme(s): Climate change

This global partnership enhances the capacity of partners to find innovative solutions for water and environmental challenges.

Lead partner(s): UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education

Productive Use of Clean Energy for Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Primary theme(s): Energy for sustainable development

This global partnership aims to achieve energy self-sufficiency and to increase the use of available energy for productive activities in small island developing States.

Lead partner(s): UNIDO

Refrigerants Naturally Initiative

Primary theme(s): Climate change

This global partnership promotes a shift in the point-of-sale cooling technology in the food and drink, food service and retail sectors towards natural refrigerants with low- or non-Global Warming Potential.

Lead partner(s): McDonald's, The Coca-Cola Company, Unilever, UNEP (Division of Technology, Industry and Economics)

Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century

Primary theme(s): Energy for sustainable development

This global partnership is a policy network that promotes the rapid expansion of renewable energies in developing and industrialized economies.

Lead partner(s): REN 21 Secretariat

Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership

Primary theme(s): Energy for sustainable development, climate change

This global partnership fosters collaboration to accelerate the growth of markets in modern renewables and energy efficiency.

Lead partner(s): Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (Cabinet Office)

Renewable-Energy-Based Rural Electrification Initiative

Primary theme(s): Energy for sustainable development

This national partnership promotes and develops renewable energy technology appropriate to the marine and tropical environment of the Asia-Pacific region.

Lead partner(s): Pacific International Center for High Technology Research

South Pacific Vulnerability and Adaptation Initiative

Primary theme(s): Climate change

The regional initiative aims to enable Pacific island countries to adapt to the future impact of climate change, climate variability and sea level rise.

Lead partner(s): Government of Australia (Australian Agency for International Development)

Southern Business Challenge

Primary theme(s): Industrial development

This global initiative brings together progressive companies and entrepreneurs from developing countries to promote sustainability and social justice.

Lead partner(s): Centre for Social Markets

Southern Caucus of NGOs for Sustainable Development — Five Multi-Regional Partnerships and Policy Centers

Primary theme(s): Air pollution/atmosphere, climate change, industrial development

This global partnership provides information, communication facilities and access to technology exchange and capacity-building to affiliate NGOs.

Lead partner(s): Southern Caucus of NGOs

Strategic Partnership among Benin, Bhutan and Costa Rica for Cooperation on Sustainable Development

Primary theme(s): Energy for Sustainable Development

This global partnership is implemented through policy dialogues, consultation and participation of multi-interest groups with focus on pilot and reciprocal projects.

Lead partner(s): Government of Costa Rica (Ministry of Energy and Environment), Government of Bhutan (Ministry of Finance), Government of Benin (Ministry of Planning)

Sustainable Energy for Sustainable Development in the Caribbean

Primary theme(s): Energy for sustainable development, climate change

This regional partnership aims to reduce dependence on petroleum and demonstrate the viability of renewable energy to meet development needs.

Lead partner(s): CARICOM

The Electricity Governance Initiative

Primary theme(s): Energy for sustainable development

This global partnership seeks to enhance global understanding of electricity sector governance, and build the capacity of governments and civil society to implement good governance.

Lead partner(s): National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, Prayas Energy Group, World Resources Institute

The Global Rain Water Harvesting Collective

Primary theme(s): Energy for sustainable development, climate change

This global partnership promotes rooftop rainwater harvesting to provide drinking water to schools facing an acute water shortage.

Lead partner(s): The Barefoot College

US Clean Energy Initiative

Primary theme(s): Air pollution/atmosphere, energy for sustainable development, climate change

This global initiative is an umbrella energy partnership comprising United States activities in the Global Village Energy Partnership, Cleaner Fuels and Vehicles Partnership, Partnership for Clean Indoor Air, and Efficient Energy for Sustainable Development.

Lead partner(s): Government of the United States of America (Department of State)

Vinyl 2010

Primary theme(s): Industrial development

This regional partnership provides the organizational and financial infrastructure to manage and monitor the actions undertaken as part of the Voluntary Commitment of the PVC industry's 10-year plan.

Lead partner(s): Vinyl 2010

Watergy — Addressing Municipal Water Challenges through Energy and Water Efficiency Partnerships

Primary theme(s): Air pollution/atmosphere, energy for sustainable development, climate change

This global partnership works to develop sustainable strategies for increasing energy efficiency within municipal water supply systems.

Lead partner(s): Government of India (Karnataka Urban Infrastructure Development and Finance Corporation), Government of the United States of America (United States Agency for International Development)